

GREENTEAM
IRVING A. ROBBINS MIDDLE SCHOOL
FARMINGTON, CT 06032

January 30, 2009

Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy ~

Perhaps you will recall GreenTeam as the 15 Farmington students who spoke passionately in favor of the Expanded Bottle Bill before the Environment Committee two years ago. The 15 individuals who spoke – several of them now college students – are all thrilled that a bill that comprehensively addresses so many needed improvements as does SB661 – is being raised and considered by your committee. As GreenTeam is deeply involved in litter pickups along the Farmington River, at athletic fields and along our town's roadsides, we know firsthand that the big players in the litter are the exact beverages that this bill addresses: bottled water, sports beverages, teas and juices. When we spoke to the Environment Committee in 2007, we strongly felt it was time to pay the handlers at a rate that was not "stuck in the 70's" to make it worth their while to take part in bringing about much higher rates of beverage container recycling. And we were also strong advocates of the visionary courage of Michigan – establishing a rate for deposits and refunds that would create a striking jump in recycling rates into the mid-90s-percent range. We also strongly favored that the state should retain the escheats. When those 15 kids put their hearts into the best bill possible in 2007, several of your committee members reminded them to keep our idealism – that it might take a while to get there – but that persistent idealism and effort would ultimately make a difference. **We are thrilled that such a visionary bill as SB661 has been raised, is considered a strong and viable bill – and that there is considerable bipartisan support for this effort.** (Our GreenTeam officers heard both Sen. Williams and Sen. McKinney speak at the LCV's Environmental Summit in December, and are thrilled at the intellect and genuine commitment to principle to be found on both sides of the aisle!) As GreenTeam's president at Farmington High urged the committee two years ago: **"Stay firm"** to the daringly-excellent features that have been put in place with SB661. The kids and families of GreenTeam (over 100 of us this year) strongly urge its approval – **intact** – by your committee.

John Mastrotianni, GreenTeam President

John Berry, GreenTeam Advisor

Farmington's State Senators: Jonathan Harris & Don DeFronzo

Farmington's State Representatives: Deputy Speaker Giannaros and Rep. Beth Bye